

DRAFT
Council on the Blind
Smyrna Rest Stop
5500 DuPont Parkway
Smyrna, DE 19977 @ 10:00 am.
Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2019

Roll Call:

Members Present: Jillian Queen (Chair); Patti Addison; Lloyd Schmitz; Kat Bottner; Deidre Morris and Ken Rolph

Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) Staff: Elisha Jenkins, Director and Jill Morrison

Public: Wayne Marsh, Blind Vendors Committee Chair; Mary Marsh and Rob Keller

Welcome and call to order: Recognizing a quorum, Jillian Queen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Both April and May 2019 meeting minutes were played by audio to the attendees.

Ken Rolph made the motion to table the April 5, 2019 meeting minutes until the next meeting. Lloyd Schmitz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lloyd Schmitz made the motion to approve the May 3, 2019 meeting minutes and Deidre Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Division for the Visually Impaired Director's Report-Elisha Jenkins

Blind Enterprise Program:

Monday, June 3, 2019, Members of the Blind Vendor's Committee, Canteen Vending Services, and staff from the Division were recognized by Lieutenant Governor Hall-Long at the Lieutenant Governor's Healthy Challenge Leadership Awards Ceremony held at Dover Downs.

The Healthy Vending Comparative Analysis Summary for April 2018 versus April 2019 was completed. The analysis depicts a small decrease in healthy vending sales.

Independent Living Services:

Friday, May 24, 2019 the Division's Independent Living Unit sponsored a Workshop titled "All About Meal Delivery Services". Nine participants attended.

Staff facilitated a discussion on "A Matter of Balance" (MOB) fall prevention program to members of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Visually Impaired's Aging Division.

Outreach:

Wednesday, May 8, 2019, Senator Lawson presented SCR 40, which recognized May as Healthy Vision Month.

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

1. In recognition of Healthy Vision Month, the Division co-hosted Healthy Vision Family Night with the Delaware Children's Museum for the second year. Over twenty vendors participated.
2. The Division for the Visually Impaired hosted a business engagement event at the New Castle Chamber of Commerce. The focus of the event was to inform the business community about the services of the Division for the Visually Impaired and to host an open space for businesses to network.

Friday, May 17, 2019, The Division for the Visually Impaired attended the Vision to Learn Celebration in which a student was presented with the 200,000th pair of glasses. Designed for Low Income schools. The Division continues to work with other community resources for students who need glasses.

A question was presented of DVI to possibly engage in cost sharing with Lions Club.

Lloyd Schmitz requested a list of assistive technology equipment available in the Technology Center to be presented at the August meeting.

Thursday, June 20, 2019 the Health Fair will be at the Modern Maturity Center, in Dover from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Over the next year, all Departments will be working on initiatives based on Executive Order #24; ensuring Delaware is a Trauma-informed state.

Old Business:

Council on the Blind Bylaws:

Lydia Massey will help in creating the Council's bylaws in conjunction with Lloyd Schmitz and Jillian Queen. Jillian reached out to Council members to volunteer their assistance.

Chair Transition: Lloyd Schmitz will assist Jillian Queen with the transition to Chairperson.

Lloyd Schmitz requested an update for the August Council meeting on the Division of Libraries assistive technology partnership.

New Business:

DVI updates/ staff vacancies

Successful closures for VR = 4 (employed longer than 90 days or more)

247 – Individuals served by Vocational Rehabilitation

62 – Individuals are in education and training programs

77 – Students age 14 - 21

44 – Individuals classified as ready to work

8 – Individuals employed less than 90 days

The VR team has is recruiting for an Employment Service Specialist. This will bring the total number of Employment Service Specialists to 4.

There is not a specific Supported Employment appropriation.

DVI continues to have vacancies for the Teachers for the Visually Impaired and 1 vacancy for an Orientation and Mobility Specialist.

The Administrative Specialist I position vacant from Independent Living will remain vacant while requesting a reclassification of the position.

Public Comment:
No public comment.

BlindSight updates by Patti Addison
BlindSight's Quarterly newsletter has been distributed. . The website is 90% ready to be online.
The website is BlindSight.de.org.

Peer Support May event was held in Sussex County at Roxanna Cheer Center; 8 – 10 in attendance. Looking for Peer Support volunteers.

Cokesbury Village looking for Library services, information on the book player, 10 individuals in attendance.

DABA beep baseball was held May 18, 2019 and was very successful. Forty participants attended. Another event will be scheduled in the Fall.

DABA fishing trip scheduled for August 24, 2019.

Four BlindSight staff will be attending NFB.

Adjournment:
Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Lloyd Schmitz and second by Ken Rolph. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Michele Hamilton
Administrative Specialist III
Division for the Visually Impaired